

TEAMBUILDING

STUDENTS LEARN THE VALUE OF TEAMWORK THROUGH EXPERIENCE

Professor Don Fujii, Department Chair, Managerial Development, Faculty Division, recently orchestrated several teambuilding exercises with the students of

APMC 95-1. The students gathered on the Fort Belvoir Parade Field on 17 March 1995 as part of an exercise in coalescing as a learning team. The results, as pictured, clearly demonstrate that working as a team and following instructions are not, in reality, always so simple.



Titanic Porthole. Students try to pass a fellow classmate through the "porthole" without touching the rim. Those unfortunate enough to touch the rim are instantly "electrocuted," and must start over again.



All Aboard. The object of this exercise is to get 10 people aboard a platform measuring about 18" x 18" without anyone touching the ground.



Scud Missile Doublecross. The balls represent a minefield, and fellow team members give verbal instructions in navigating to avoid the mines. The problem is, the opposing team is also allowed to shout instructions — the problem then becomes who to believe!



The Trolley. Constructed like a centipede, each participant stands on a board, interconnected with all the other boards. Ropes and hand-foot coordination control the "centipede's" movement. The object is to get everyone lifting their feet and the ropes in the same direction, at the same time — obviously not as easy as it looks judging from the student on the right who lost his balance.



Poison Peanut Butter Pit. Students must navigate to the finish line walking on boards atop rollers, without the boards or their feet touching the ground at any time. If they make contact with the ground, they've fallen into the pit. To make it more interesting, they cannot leave boards or rollers behind, and must cross the finish line with all the equipment they start with.

Photos by Ed Boyd